



# Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown  
Eastern District of California

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CONTACT: Lauren Horwood  
PHONE: (916) 554-2706  
[usacae.edcapress@usdoj.gov](mailto:usacae.edcapress@usdoj.gov)

## **BAKERSFIELD MOTHER AND DAUGHTERS INDICTED FOR TAX FRAUD**

FRESNO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that a federal grand jury returned a 70-count indictment charging RAMONA CAMPOS, 53, and her daughter VERONICA MERCEDES CAMPOS, 26, both of Bakersfield, Calif., with one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States with respect to claims and RAMONA CAMPOS, VERONICA CAMPOS and MELISSA ANN LOPEZ, 36, with 69 counts of making false claims against the United States. LOPEZ is another daughter of RAMONA CAMPOS and is also a resident of Bakersfield.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Mark E. Cullers, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that RAMONA and VERONICA CAMPOS conspired to defraud the United States by preparing and causing to be prepared tax returns that contained false information as to the taxpayer's name, social security number and employment. As a result, the false tax returns requested tax refunds to which the defendants, and others, were not entitled. RAMONA and VERONICA CAMPOS, along with LOPEZ, are also charged with 69 separate counts of making false claims to the United States in the form of individual Form 1040 income tax returns.

If convicted, the defendants face a maximum of five years in prison and/or a fine up to \$250,000 per count. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only an allegation, and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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